

## COUNTRY DATA: NIGER : Information from the CIA World Factbook

### INTRODUCTION

Niger became independent from France in 1960 and experienced single-party and military rule until 1991, when Gen. Ali SAIBOU was forced by public pressure to allow multiparty elections, which resulted in a democratic government in 1993. Political infighting brought the government to a standstill and in 1996 led to a coup by Col. Ibrahim BARE. In 1999, BARE was killed in a counter coup by military officers who restored democratic rule and held elections that brought Mamadou TANDJA to power in December of that year. TANDJA was reelected in 2004 and in 2009 spearheaded a constitutional amendment that would allow him to extend his term as president. In February 2010, a military coup deposed TANDJA, immediately suspended the constitution and dissolved the Cabinet, and promised that elections would be held following a transitional period of unspecified duration. Niger is one of the poorest countries in the world with minimal government services and insufficient funds to develop its resource base. The largely agrarian and subsistence-based economy is frequently disrupted by extended droughts common to the Sahel region of Africa. A predominately Tuareg ethnic group emerged in February 2007, the Nigerien Movement for Justice (MNJ), and attacked several military targets in Niger's northern region throughout 2007 and 2008. Successful government offensives in 2009 limited the rebels' operational capabilities.

### GEOGRAPHY

<b>Location</b>	Western Africa, southeast of Algeria
<b>Area</b>	1.267 million sq km
<b>Climate</b>	desert; mostly hot, dry, dusty; tropical in extreme south
<b>Natural Resources</b>	uranium, coal, iron ore, tin, phosphates, gold, molybdenum, gypsum, salt, petroleum
<b>Total Renewable Water Resources</b>	33.7 cu km (2003)
<b>Freshwater Withdrawal</b>	2.18 cu km/yr (domestic 4%/ industrial 0%/ agricultural 95%)
<b>Natural Hazards</b>	recurring droughts
<b>Environmental Issues</b>	overgrazing; soil erosion; deforestation; desertification; wildlife populations (such as elephant, hippopotamus, giraffe, and lion) threatened because of poaching and habitat destruction

### PEOPLE

<b>Population</b>	15,878,271 (July 2010 est.)
<b>Ethnic Groups</b>	Haoussa 55.4%, Djerma Sonrai 21%, Tuareg 9.3%, Peuhl 8.5%, Kanouri Manga 4.7%, other 1.2% (2001 census)

Religions	Muslim 80%, other (includes indigenous beliefs and Christian) 20%
Languages	French (official), Hausa, Djerma
Literacy Rate	28.7% (age 15 and over) male: 42.9%; female: 15.1% (2005 est.)
Major Infectious Diseases	<p>degree of risk: very high</p> <p>food or waterborne diseases: bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever; vectorborne disease: malaria; water contact disease: schistosomiasis; animal contact disease: rabies; respiratory disease: meningococcal meningitis</p> <p>note: highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza has been identified in this country; it poses a negligible risk with extremely rare cases possible among US citizens who have close contact with birds (2009)</p> <p>HIV/AIDS adult prevalence rate: 0.8 % (2007 est.); 60,000 people living with HIV/AIDS; 4,000 people died (2007 est.)</p>
GOVERNMENT	
Type	republic
Independence	3 August 1960 (from France)
Constitution	adopted 18 July 1999
Legal System	based on French civil law system and customary law; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction
ECONOMY	
Agricultural Products	cowpeas, cotton, peanuts, millet, sorghum, cassava (tapioca), rice; cattle, sheep, goats, camels, donkeys, horses, poultry
Industries	uranium mining, cement, brick, soap, textiles, food processing, chemicals, slaughterhouses
Import commodities	foodstuffs, machinery, vehicles and parts, petroleum, cereals
Import Partners	China 16.32%, France 15.95%, Netherlands 7.66%, Algeria 7.15%, French Polynesia 6.11%, Nigeria 5.48%, Cote d'Ivoire 4.15%, US 4.05% (2009)
Export Commodities	uranium ore, livestock, cowpeas, onions
Export Partners	France 52.63%, Nigeria 22.43%, US 18.24% (2009)
Per Capita GDP	\$700 (2010 est.)
Population below poverty line	63% (1993 est.)

\*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.

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<b>General</b>	
Life Expectancy at Birth (in years)	52.5 years
Average number of years in School (in years)	1.4 years
Gross National Income Per Capita (In US Dollars)	\$675
<b>Gender Inequality</b>	
Female Seats in Parliament (%)	12.4%
Population with at least a Secondary Education Female (% Of 25 and older)	2.5%
Population with at least a Secondary Education Male (% Of 25 and older)	7.6%
Labor Force Participation Female (%)	37.9%
Labor Force Participation Male (%)	88.1%
Births Attended by Skilled Health Professionals (%)	18%
<b>Poverty</b>	
Population surviving on \$1.25 per day (%)	65.9%
<b>Empowerment</b>	
Number of Journalists Imprisoned	0
Corruption Victims (% of people who face a bribe situation in the last year)	17%
Political Engagement (% percent of people who voiced opinion to public officials)	19%

<b>Sustainability</b>	
Fossil Fuels as Primary Energy Source (%)	--
Renewable Resources as Primary Energy Source (%)	--
Population without Access to Water (%)	52%
Population Without Access to Sanitation Services (%)	91%
Population affected by natural disasters (% between 2000-2009)	0.05 %
<b>Human Security</b>	
Number of Refugees leaving this country	800
Number of Internally Displaced People in This Country	6.5
Prevalence of Undernourishment (%)	28%
<b>Demographics</b>	
Urban Residents (% of total Population)	17.1%
<b>Health</b>	
HIV Prevalence in Female Youth (% ages 15-24)	0.5%
HIV Prevalence in Male Youth (% ages 15-24)	0.9%
HIV Prevalence in Adults (% ages 15-49)	0.8%
<b>Other</b>	
Official Development Assistance Per Capita (in US dollars)	\$41.30
Population without Electricity (%)	--

